

GRAYS HARBOR CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

March 2011

WELCOME!

Spring is approaching and we hope that the sun will soon make an appearance! New growth should be emerging as days lengthen and temperatures increase. The feature article this month covers "Selecting a Reliable Consulting Forester." Text in [*Dark Blue*](#) will take you to a website with additional information.

MARCH MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

- ❖ Inspect planted seedlings at the time of bud break. Look for discoloration of needles that could indicate frost damage that occurred while the trees were still at the nursery.
- ❖ When foliage flushes in the spring, trees are extremely susceptible to damage from the application of the majority of herbicides. Please read the following articles for more detail on herbicide usage to control weeds in the Pacific Northwest. Always adhere to the label requirements.
 - http://uspest.org/weeds/20W_FORS.pdf
 - http://uspest.org/weeds/26W_CHRT.pdf
- ❖ [Click Here](#) for the log price summary from February 2011 provided by the Department of Natural Resources.
- ❖ Stumpage Value Tables from the Department of Revenue with log prices projected for the first half of the year can be viewed [HERE](#). Keep in mind these are averages and are often ahead of or behind current log price trends.

IN THE NEWS

DNR-managed forestlands helped state's private-sector timber economy retain jobs in 2010

<http://www.dnr.wa.gov>, March 18, 2011

OLYMPIA – State trust forestlands helped keep timber contractors, saw mills and related businesses working last year. Close to 30 percent of the total timber harvest in Washington State in Fiscal Year 2010 came from state trust lands managed by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) according to its 2010 Annual Report released today. [Read More.](#)

Climate Change Causing Demise of Lodgepole Pine in Western North America

<http://www.sciencedaily.com>, February 28, 2011

ScienceDaily (Feb. 28, 2011) — Lodgepole pine, a hardy tree species that can thrive in cold temperatures and plays a key role in many western ecosystems, is already shrinking in range as a result of climate change -- and may almost disappear from most of the Pacific Northwest by 2080, a new study concludes. [Read More.](#)

It isn't grandpa's logging business

www.chinookobserver.com, March 8, 2011

PACIFIC COUNTY — After a year and a half looking for a buyer, in February once-dominant logging giant Weyerhaeuser sold 82,000 acres of hemlock forestland here and in neighboring Grays Harbor County for \$200 million to a Boston insurance company's timber subsidiary. [Read More.](#)

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EVENTS

- The next Weyerhaeuser tree sale will be March 19th in Rochester, WA. Sales also take place in Aurora, OR. [Click Here](#) for more information.
- “Fun in the Forest” is a learning day for landowners with forest land of any size. New classes offered this year and lots of hands on activities. This event will be held April 30th at the Regional Education and Training Center at the Satsop Development Park from 9 am – 3:30 pm. Visit the Grays Harbor Conservation District website for more information:
<http://graysharborcd.scc.wa.gov/>
- Game of Logging – September 22 & 23rd, Oakville WA. Northwest Natural Resource Group is taking registration forms now for the “Game of Logging” two day seminar. Based on the concept of ‘open face felling’, The Game of Logging is the world’s leading method for safe, efficient, and precise tree felling. Developed by Swedish innovator Soren Eriksson (www.gameoflogging.com), the program combines tree felling techniques gleaned from around the world into a complete training program that will change the way you work in the woods. Cost for non-members of Northwest Certified Forestry is \$325. Contact Kirk Hanson, 360-316-9317, kirk@nnrg.org for more information on this event.
- FSC Assessor Training – March 18th & 19th. Are you a forestry professional and want to expand your skill set to meet the needs of a growing number of forest landowners pursuing FSC certification? This affordable two day workshop is designed for forestry professionals who wish to gain the knowledge and technical skills needed to conduct FSC assessments on small woodland properties in the Pacific Northwest. [Click Here](#) for registration information.

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Selecting a Reliable Consulting Forester

State agencies are not able to recommend a specific consulting forester, so if you are new to tree farming, or haven't needed a consultant for a number of years, how do you locate a reliable forester? First you need to determine what it is you need the consulting forester to do. Is the consultant primarily going to be used for timber sales, reforestation, thinning, planning, or vegetation management? Do you live far away from your property and need to find someone to manage your property? Although some consultants are specialists, others complete timber sales, forest plans, and reforestation work. Just make sure the consultant you hire is not a "jack of all trades, master of none". The amount of time that you take in selecting the right person for the job can save you both time and money in the long run. Here are a few other things to keep in mind when looking for a consultant.

Ask for references.

- A good consulting forester should be able to provide you with several clients that you can call to discuss their work.
- If the consultant has several crews, be aware of the crews used by the clients that you interview.

Get multiple bids and always get all costs in writing prior to work being completed.

- A low bid does not necessarily mean you are getting the most for your money. A poor pre-commercial thinning crew may cost less because they are not willing to take the time to do the work right. A quality job may cost more, but pay off in the long run.
- Getting multiple bids will help you look for consultants who are unusually high or low in terms of cost for a specific job.

Visit prior worksites

- If you are looking for a good planting crew, visit sites that are two years old and see what mortality is being incurred at sites with similar soil conditions.
- Look for ground disturbance and damage to the bark on standing trees at commercial thinning sites.
- At pre-commercial thinning sites, look to see the condition of the trees removed and left behind. Are there trees you would have rather seen still standing, or trees left with severe defect?

Is the consulting forester insured? Do they belong to any professional organizations?

- Know the requirements for the professional organization that they belong to and if it exists.
- If they are applying chemicals, do they have the correct pesticide license?

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Hiring a good consultant should make or save you money, not cost you money.

- For example, a consultant can get chemical at a reduced rate when they buy in bulk. If you figure in your time and the cost of the chemical, it may be cheaper to use a consulting forester. Their crew should have their application license and use the minimum amount of chemical to get the desired result.
- Marketing your timber yourself can be challenging. A good consultant will work to get the best price for your product and be aware of current trends in the market.
- Any work completed on your tree farm is an investment in the future, a poorly completed job costs you money.

Have a written contract

- Without a written contract, there are no rules for how the consultant completes the work.
- For instance, if you take plots and find that a majority of the planted seedlings are planted incorrectly, what is in the contract that ensures these trees are replanted correctly?
- For PCT if you want cedar left in the understory or red alder to be favored over Douglas-fir, make it worth their while to do the job right.
- If 50% of the seedlings planted by the crew of a consulting forest die, what are they going to do about it?

Always be on site when the work is done

- This sends a message to the consultant that you expect a quality job.
- As they work, make sure the job is done correctly.
- Meeting on site will clear up any misunderstandings prior to the work being completed. This is especially important if you are cutting trees along a property line.

Understand the different types of timber sales and the pros and cons for each.

- [WSU Extension has several streaming video regarding managing your timber sale from start to finish.](#)
- [An overview of "Types of Sales" is mid page at University of Missouri Extension](#)
- [Mississippi State University Extension has a good summary for things to include in a timber sales agreement](#)
- If the sale is quite large and the timber sale agreement is confusing, you may want to seek legal advice.

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ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Many of the tips that are presented by FEMA when finding a contractor to repair your house as a result of a forest fire, actually apply generally to finding a forestry consultant.
- EB1316 "A Primer for Timber Harvest" - WSU Extension
- EB1818 "Managing Your Timber Sale" - WSU Extension
- EC 1582 "Timber Harvesting Options for Woodland Owners - OSU Extension
- EC 1587 "Selling Timber & Logs" - OSU Extension
- Download the Timber Sale Contract Checklist from Montana State University Extension.
- A publication cited at several consulting companies back east, advocating for the use of a consulting forester "Do Consultants Really Generate Higher Timber Prices?"
- "Confessions of a Timber Buyer" This link is from a consultant's website back east points out how a landowner can be hoodwinked during the timber sale process.
- National Timber Tax Website with Information on Types of Sales and Federal Taxes
- "Getting the Most from your Timber Sale" Ohio State University

CONSULTING FORESTER DIRECTORIES

Consulting Forester Directory with WSU Extension

Oregon Forest Industry Directory

Horse Logging Listing

CHECKING UP ON CONSULTING FORESTERS & ARBORISTS

Washington Contract Loggers Association - Grays Harbor Chapter

Labor & Industries - Main Page

Labor & Industries - Look Up

Labor & Industries - Violators

International Society of Arboriculture

Tree Care Industry Association